

WM. M. OVERTON, CH. MAURICE SMITH,  
AND BEVERLY TUCKER.

MARCH 21, 1855.

All letters on business should be addressed to "The Sentinel Office," Washington.

**CUBA.**  
The close neighborhood of Cuba makes it matter of the utmost importance to the United States. Our people have, for a long time, desired the acquisition of that island; but they have refused to do anything to acquire it, which was not fair and proper. Our neutrality laws have been strictly enforced by the Whigs and by the Democrats; and no countenance has been given to illegal expeditions against the Spanish authority. Had our course been different, no sane man could doubt that Cuba would at this moment be free and independent.

We have kept our faith in this matter; and our honesty has been rewarded by justice and outrage. In every quarter of the country there has been, for several years, a settled and fixed determination that whilst we would respect the rights of Spain in Cuba, we would not permit the island to pass under any other dominion but our own. This settled and fixed determination did not spring from cupidity, but it emanated from an intelligent love of the duties and obligations which the right of self defence imposes on every people. Cuba, under the control of Spain alone, could be made a source of annoyance to us—our commerce might be interrupted and our citizens harassed—but no vital blow could be struck from there by Spanish force. Therefore our people have been willing to see the neutrality laws enforced, and Cuba continue a possession of Spain, unless it could be fairly bought by us.

But of late the aspect of affairs has changed in most important particulars. No man at all conversant with passing events, can doubt for a moment that England and France have established a sort of *CUBAN PROTECTORATE*—aimed against the interests of the United States and giving to those allied nations the same power to harm us from Cuba as if the island belonged to them. The proposition for the tripartite convention made some time ago, and the recent activity of British men-of-war in transporting Spanish troops—sailing out of Havana with the English and Spanish flags entwined, leave no doubt or uncertainty. It is clear—perfectly clear—that a *CUBAN PROTECTORATE* has been established by England and France, and that the end, object, and purpose of the protectorate is hostility to the United States and to the most important interests of the people of the United States.

These circumstances—strengthened and made more significant and alarming by the efforts to Africanize the island and by the arming and organizing of the free negroes—has entirely changed the scope and bearing, the nature and character of the Cuban question. We are no longer called upon to decide whether we will consent that, after propositions to purchase, Cuba shall remain a Spanish province; but whether we will permit it to continue to be an English and French Protectorate, originating in hostility to us, and having nothing but hostile purposes for us.

At one time our Government seemed to have understood this matter in the light in which we view it. These views were distinctly announced to our Minister to Spain. The Black Warrior and other matters were not to be discussed separately. All was to be settled under the rights which a knowledge of the meaning of an English Protectorate derived from Central America gave to us. The Ostend conference was suggested—nay, ordered—from Washington; and the distinguished men who met and conferred there, made recommendations in harmony with public sentiment in this country, and in accord with the principles which the Administration had announced to them.

Under these circumstances it is passing strange that Messrs. Mason, Buchanan, and Soule, should have been abandoned, nay, repudiated by the Government. We are not willing to believe that the Ostend conference was concocted for the purpose of wounding distinguished men. We cannot consent to admit that at any time such a purpose influenced the councils of an American administration. Rejecting such a supposition, as we are bound to reject it, the whole matter is inexplicable. We do not pretend to be versed in all rules of state-manship—we do not pretend to be adepts in the tortuous policy and cunning verbiage of trained diplomacy. We try to look things in the face and speak of them with direct and positive words. Having contracted these habits, we cannot understand why the positions assumed at the Ostend conference were so promptly abandoned, disavowed and disowned. We can make due allowances for the ambition of individuals and for the hatred and jealousies of politicians, and for the apprehensions and fears of weak men when the time of declivity action succeeds the time of loud boasts and valiant expressions; but whilst we understand and appreciate these things, we are at a loss to divine why we have succumbed to Spain in such a manner that an additional outrage has been offered to our flag, and so that cool, calm men are considering whether the time has not come to resort to the "ultimate reason" of self defence. The attempt to put the responsibility of the present condition of the Cuban question on the last Congress is foolish and dishonest. In the House of Representatives, a movement was made at the beginning of the late session to obtain the information necessary to enlighten Congress and the country with regard to the Ostend conference. The Government defeated the call, and the organ of the Government boasted of the defeat of that attempted inquiry as an Administration triumph. Congress had no power to act, for it had no information to act on; and, therefore, we say that the present condition of the Cuban question has grown out of mismanaged diplomacy.

**TRUE POETRY.**—We met with the following motto round a bon fire the other day—the most original we ever read:  
"Love is a fire that burns and sparkles in men as naturally as in charcoal."

## A NEW PRESIDENTIAL MOVE.

Man, in whatever condition found, has a sense of religion. In the highest state of civilization, or the lowest depths of barbarism, he is still a religious being. If the most quoted philosopher, who described man as "an animal who cooks his own food," had described him as a being with a sense of religion, the description would have been more accurate. But to turn from serious to light things.

The Egyptians worshipped the ichneumon, besides an infinity of other untold deities. In one place the crocodile, in another place the monkey is the deity. But politicians as well as people have their divinities and their peculiar ceremonies. We have a party at this time, in this country—this free country—in which men have not been wont to meet in secret and speak in whispers, that has its peculiar ceremonies. Its ritual is an incomprehensible jargon, its ceremonies are (if reports may be credited) far more absurd than the extreme ceremonies of the Catholic Church, which they so much ridicule, their deity is George Law, their Prophet the New York Herald, and their object, the heaven of Government plunder.

The most absurd political movement that ever occurred in this country is that in favor of Mr. George Law's political and Presidential aspirations. They cannot boast of his services to the country. He has rendered none. He has never been a statesman. But they are endeavoring to operate on mechanics, by representing him as a sympathizer with mechanics. They call him "Live oak George Law." They begin already to imitate the base nomenclature that prevailed in other canvasses. But that nomenclature was based on realities, this has no more solid foundation than fiction.

Mr. Law's muskets and Mr. Law's Presidential aspirations are about on the same footing.

## HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.

We have not much faith in any combination of piety and politics. We have scarcely any confidence in the efficacy of prayers paid for by the Government, or in fasts appointed by the civil authorities. All these things save too much of what, to us, is indiscreetly odious, the union of Church and State. Governments should not be instituted either to preach or to pray. They should be instituted to accomplish far different ends. The people ought to be pious, and the church, which is but a voluntary association of religious people, under Heaven, ought to appoint its fasts and its days for prayer and humiliation.

There is no law that requires any President, or Governor or Mayor, or other civil authority to appoint days of thanksgiving and prayer, nor is there any law that ever recommends it to any officer of any government, State or Federal, to starve the people, even for a day. We are aware that the motives that lead Presidents and other rulers to appoint days of fasting and prayer are pure and pious. They are also frequently the result of applications made to any officer in that behalf, by ministers and laymen.

We think that the church, which is a religious and voluntary association of people, should manage these matters without any interference on the part of the State.

We, however, do not remember having ever seen any such exercise of authority that we are so inclined to approve as that of the Governor of Alabama. It is as follows:

"Mobile, March 8, 1855.

Messrs. BRITTON & BLISS—

"Gentlemen: At the suggestion of some intelligent and devout gentlemen, and in compliance with my own sense of propriety, under the peculiar circumstances in which we find ourselves placed, both as regards our pecuniary and domestic affairs, and the gloomy aspect of the political relations of the southern States, I have considered it proper to do what, under other circumstances, I should have left to those whose religious position it more properly belongs to move in spiritual affairs. It will become every one whose political lot has been cast in this section of the Union, to examine prayerfully the end to which political fanaticism at the north is so rapidly tending, and to implore Him who indured the stern men, the fathers of our republic, with fortitude, patriotism, and wisdom to conduct our infant people through the difficulties of the revolutionary struggle and the establishment of a constitutional government, to enable us to bear our selves, in whatever emergency we may be placed, so as not to reflect disgrace upon our ancestors."

JOHN A. WINSTON.

"Humiliation" is the fit word with which to describe the feelings that southern men should experience, when they remember that a clandestine organization, which sprang up in the North, and in the North has passed under the control of the Abolitionists, has risen up in their midst and ambitiously aspires to establish itself on the ruins of the other parties.

The above letter from Governor Winston, it is true, does not distinctly define the precise occasion for appointing a day of humiliation and prayer. But there are expressions in the letter that sufficiently denote "Know-nothingism" as the main cause. If Governor Winston can only prevail upon the Know-nothings to acknowledge, before high heaven, that they are humiliated, he will do a memorable and signal service to the State of Alabama.

The Boston Post says: "Returns from 204 towns, upon a careful revision of tables, present the following results: Metcalf, k. n., 32,605; Baker, Dem., 26,717; Bell, Whig, 3,452; Fowler, Abolition, 1,265. Metcalf's majority, 1,171. The towns to be heard from gave last year Baker 567, all others 114. They will probably reduce Metcalf's majority to about 700. The entire council, five in number, have been elected by the Know-nothings, Whigs, and Free-soilers, who supported the same candidates. The coalition have also carried ten of the twelve senators, a Democrat being elected in No. 12, and no choice in No. 6, which the opposition could not wholly unite upon. The house stands Democrats 79, opposition 221. The towns to be heard from will probably return six Democrats and five opposition. Democratic county officers have chosen in Coos, and probably Carroll and Belnap, but it is very close and doubtful. The other seven counties probably coalition."

We are authorized to announce Colonel DANIEL JENNER as a candidate for Congress from the 6th Congressional district of Maryland, embracing the counties of St. Mary's, Charles, Prince Georges, Calvert, Anne Arundel, Montgomery and Howard.

From the St. Louis Republician, March 13.  
Very Late from Utah Territory.

**INDEPENDENCE, March 14.**—The party which went out with the Salt Lake mail in January, returned yesterday. They report that Captain Stephens, who was appointed Governor of Utah, has neither accepted nor declined that station yet. Brigham Young was still Governor de facto.

They left Salt Lake City on the 8th ultimo. Snow very deep on the mountains, and difficult travelling. They met the party which went out in February at Scott's Bluff, getting on prosperously. They met with no disturbance from the Indians. They report that several tribes are disaffected, and threaten hostilities, but as yet no depredations have been committed. They passed through an encampment of about one hundred and fifty lodges of Sioux, without molestation.

The mail party was conducted by Mr. Jesse Jones. Colonel Bridges came with the mail from Fort Laramie, and also Mr. and Mrs. Barnard, of St. Joseph.

**NEBRASKA.**—Both branches of the Nebraska Legislature have adopted the following resolutions by a nearly unanimous vote.

"Resolved, That we herewith endorse the principles enunciated in the bill organizing the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas; that we reject the geographical line between the northern and southern States has been erased, leaving the people of every State and Territory free to control their domestic institutions; and that we commend the firm and patriotic course of the men, without distinction of party, who have aided in establishing the sound constitutional principles of the compromise of 1850; and

"Resolved, Furthermore, That we pledge ourselves to oppose any unfair discriminations, such as those of the late Missouri compromise; but to protect and defend the rights of the States, and the union of the States, and to advance and perpetuate the doctrines of popular sovereignty."

In Dover, where J. P. Hale belongs, if

anywhere in New Hampshire, the democrats

gained fifty-six votes. In Congress in 1852,

Hale solemnly declared that, so long as there

should flow in his veins the blood of his mother,

O'Brien, so long an Irish emigrant should name

himself O'Brien. He evidently is not a

believer in "popular sovereignty." He dic-

ted that all the American gold pieces which

Mr. Burrows, who lately visited Jeddah by

Mr. Burrows, should be returned. The

interpreter discovered "Liberty" on them,

which alarmed the emperor.

**A WIDE-AWAKE EMPEROR.**—The Emperor

of Japan seems to have a sharp eye to his

rights and privileges. He evidently is not a

believer in "popular sovereignty." He dic-

ted that all the American gold pieces which

Mr. Burrows, who lately visited Jeddah by

Mr. Burrows, should be returned. The

interpreter discovered "Liberty" on them,

which alarmed the emperor.

**HAUNTED HOUSE IN WORCESTER.**—A house

in Worcester, Mass., that has long suffered

the reputation of being haunted, was surrounded

by the police on Monday evening, and nine

spirits, with bodies to match, were taken out

of the house. In the morning they were fined three dollars each, for

a breach of the peace.

**THE EMMA MOORE MYSTERY.**—The body of

the missing girl having been found yesterday under the ice in the

river.—*New York Tribune of yesterday.*

**\$250 REWARD.**—The "Union Blin-

dery," in Taylor's Building, corner E

and D streets, was last night burglarized, and

lost a large amount of property destroyed

and stolen, and attempts made to fire the build-

ing.

The above reward will be paid at the clerk's

office of the "Union," on the arrest and conviction

of the burglar, thief and incendiary.

March 17—2t

**GREAT ATTRACTION.**

**PREMIUM DAGUEROTYPES** taken at

STEWART'S Gallery, Pennsylvania ave-

nu, over Gall's Jewelry Store.

Pictures in best quality of cases from 50 cents

and upwards.

We invite the public to call and judge for them-

selves.

March 17—dim

**HOUSE WANTED.**—The advertiser de-

sires to engage a small and convenient ten-

ement, six or seven rooms, located upon the north

side of Pennsylvania avenue. Rent not to exceed

\$225. A good tenant and prompt payment.

Address D. K. 152, City Post Office.

March 17—3t

**TO PERSONS ENTITLED TO**

**BOUNTY LAND.**

Under the Act of Congress, March 3d, 1855.

HAVING prepared a supply of blank forms

for every description of applications for

land warrants, the subscriber is prepared to furnish

blank forms, per sheet, or the entire set, in any

quantity, and (instructions as to the required evi-

dence) for obtaining bounty land warrants granted

under the "act of Congress, March 3d, 1855,"

persons having served, or who may have served

in the army or navy, or who may have been in the

line of the country, (if dead, their widows or

minor children) are entitled to 100 acres of land,

or the proportion, if they have received less than

that amount under any previous act.

Claims of all descriptions prosecuted before any

of the Departments of the General Government.

Agents at a distance will find it greatly to their

advantage to correspond with the undersig-

ned.

E. WAITE,

Mar. 18. 382 Eighth Street, Washington.

**PREMIUM BOOTS.**—Gentlemen are re-

commended to call at my store, Brown's Hotel,

and examine the fine case of BOOTS that we

awarded the highest premium at the Metropolitan

Mechanics' Institute, manufactured by Godfrey

& Co., Philadelphia. Please call early, as they

are returned in a few days. We have a fine

assortment of Boots on hand and for sale from the

same establishment; also, of G. Benker's and P.

Conrad's make, of Philadelphia, as well as my own

manufacture, of the best quality, and at the lowest

price. The first of a series of original, well-illustrated

romances by George Lippard, entitled *Legends*

of the Last Century. All who have read Mr. Lip-

pard's celebrated "*Legends of the American Revolution*"

published for fifty consecutive weeks in the

"Saturday Courier," will find these pictures

of French and American history endowed with all

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